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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Evil Dead isn't out of the woods yet

The slasher franchise returns with one more visit to a remote cabin PAGE 10

Show us Bollywood glitz, not politics

Are Liberals courting the 'ethnic vote' with TOIFA? Fans shrug off criticism PAGE 3

Fat chance this would fly in Canada

A Samoa airline's pay-as-you-weigh policy irks some passengers PAGE 8

ACCUSED OF BEING A SEX WORKER

CONDOMS IN TRAVELLER'S BAGGAGE RUBBED U.S. CUSTOMS THE WRONG WAY, A B.C. STUDENT CLAIMS PAGE 7

FAIR TRADE?

Derek Roy of the Dallas Stars celebrates a goal by Loui Eriksson against the Chicago Blackhawks during a game this past January. Roy, 29, became the newest member of the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday, when the team traded prospect Kevin Connauton and a second-round pick for the versatile centre. Eyes will be on general manager Mike Gillis today to see what other moves, if any, might be in store ahead of the noon trade deadline. Story, page 20. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Shooting at U.S. border sets off manhunt

Abbotsford police involved. It's unclear if the alleged shooter crossed into Canada

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Police on both sides of the border are on the hunt for a camouflage-clad man who may have fled to Canada after allegedly firing shots at U.S. border guards near Abbotsford on Tuesday morning.

U.S. border patrol agents came across the suspect and a companion, both carrying backpacks, about 11 kilometres east of the Sumas, Washington crossing around 9:10 a.m., U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said.

The suspect opened fire at the border officials, Milne said. There were no injuries, but the alleged shooter is still on the loose. Police apprehended the second person, who remains in custody. Milne had no information regarding reports the pair was smuggling drugs.

It's unclear if the suspect crossed the border into Canada following the incident, but Abbotsford police took precautionary action to support U.S. authorities, Const. Ian MacDonald said.

Three vehicle checkpoints were set up near the crossing, police and RCMP emergency response teams were deployed and the Air 1 helicopter searched from the sky, MacDonald said.

Precautionary measures

- Upper Sumas Elementary and the Arnold Community Church were both put on lockdown as a precaution.
- But the schoolchildren and a ladies' bible study group from the church were allowed outside midday.

Abbotsford police officers dismantled the roadblocks and started going door to door to residences as their search continued Tuesday evening.

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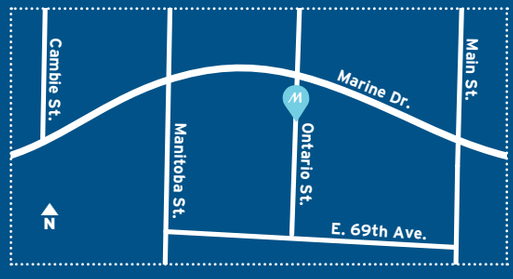

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Hospital crime

Thief steals wallet of new mom in maternity ward

Calling it a "shameless theft," police in North Vancouver are looking for a man who stole the wallet of a new mother while she was feeding her infant in a hospital maternity ward.

The RCMP say the woman left her room at Lions Gate Hospital on Monday to feed the baby and when she returned she found her wallet had been stolen from an unlocked drawer in her room.

A search found the wallet in a garbage can in the hospital, but $300 in cash was missing. Police have released security video of the thief in hopes of catching him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caught on tape

Police punch gets independent investigation

The West Vancouver Police Department will investigate the circumstances around an arrest in which a Vancouver police officer punched a suspect.

The Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner ordered the West Vancouver department to step in after video of the arrest spread across the Internet.

The video shows Const. Ismail Bhabha punching a man he was attempting to put into handcuffs during an arrest in Vancouver March 25. The officers involved said they were trying to arrest Kharazi Akhavan because he rode his bicycle through a red light and wasn't wearing a helmet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fans react as Bollywood actor Madhavan arrives in Vancouver Tuesday for the Times of India Film Awards. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Celebrity trumps controversy for fans

Stars touch down. For Bollywood heads, Times of India Film Awards are about starpower, not B.C. politics

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Autographs, not votes, mattered most to the fans who skipped work or school to greet beloved Bollywood stars as they arrived at the Vancouver airport Tuesday afternoon.

As the famous actors and singers flocked to town for the inaugural Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA), which the B.C. Liberal government dished out approximately $11 million to support, about 40 fans gathered to watch them strut down the red carpet.

"For me, honestly, it's just about the stars," said Vancouverite Jas Bhatti, 26, when asked if TOIFA could sway her vote in May's provincial election. She was surprised at how few people turned out to welcome the stars, though she was excited to have the odds in her favour for snapping a photo with one.

Perhaps it's no surprise that those who took a day off work were more interested in celebrities such as actors Madhavan and Boman Irani than in the controversy surrounding TOIFA.

Critics accuse the Liberals of using the awards ceremony to buy the "ethnic vote" before the election, though the government denies the allegations and says TOIFA will be good for the economy.

Burnaby resident Anna Dua, 37, is undecided upon her vote, but said TOIFA did put a "positive spin" for the Liberals. It's important for her to introduce her kids to Bollywood so they have a link to India, she said with her children and nieces in tow.

The advertisements for B.C. on the award's website plugged Vancouver, and she's all for it if it's good for the economy or encourages the Indian movie industry to film here.

But TOIFA won the Liberals at least one vote in the crowd — if only Maheep Pannu was old enough to hit the ballots.

"If I was voting, I would vote for the Liberals because they're bringing Bollywood into Vancouver," the 17-year-old said.

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Tribunal. Woman gets $9,000 for being fired because of pregnancy

A woman has been awarded $9,000 by the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal after she was fired by a real-estate company because of her pregnancy.

Kamalpreet Dhillon was a receptionist at the Planet Group's branch office in Abbotsford and took her complaint to the tribunal after she was fired.

Dhillon told the tribunal that her termination caused her considerable stress — she suffered high blood pressure and feared she was going to lose her baby.

The dismissal also came after Dhillon's husband had lost his job several months earlier, making her solely responsible for supporting the family at the time of her termination, which she said caused her anxiety.

Tribunal member Diana Juricevic concluded that Planet Group discriminated against Dhillon because of her pregnancy and ordered the company to pay $3,000 for lost wages and another $6,000 as damages for injury to Dhillon's dignity, feelings and self-respect.

Planet Group was also ordered to pay interest and refrain from committing a similar contravention of the Human Rights Code.

NEAL HALL/THE CANADIAN PRESS, EXCLUSIVELY FOR METRO

Amanda Todd's mother. Better health care for kids in crisis needed: Parents

Amanda Todd's mother and a group of parents have met with Health Minister Margaret MacDiarmid in an attempt to push the Liberal government to improve crisis care for British Columbia's children — and ultimately prevent further tragedies.

The girl's heart-wrenching video about the bullying and cyberstalking she experienced was seen worldwide, and her subsequent suicide last fall sparked a nationwide effort to support anti-bullying causes.

"We were able to tell our stories out there," said Carol Todd on Tuesday. "We don't have many successes, and, of course, I come with a tragic story.

"People shared their problems, frustrations and I was actually pleased to see the minister and her fellow colleagues from other ministries listen and share concrete things that they would look at for the future of youth mental health."

The parents presented MacDiarmid with a petition signed by 36,000 people calling for improvements to emergency care for children in crisis at provincial hospitals.

Quoted

"It should be all standardized in terms of how we speak, what we hear, so our frustrations are less, so we don't lose any more kids."

Carol Todd

The families want MacDiarmid to make changes in emergency rooms that ensure psychiatrists and not physicians make decisions on whether to admit a child to care. Parents must also be included in the decision-making process, the families said.

Todd said children shouldn't face long wait-lists and gaps in care.

"It should be all standardized in terms of how we speak, what we hear, so our frustrations are less, so we don't lose any more kids," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A worker drives a vehicle inside an underground tunnel during a media tour of the Canada Line construction in July 2007. WAWMEESH GEORGE HAMILTON/METRO FILE

Canada Line foreign workers win battle

Payout. Latin American labourers win five-year war for fair wages for work on transit link

About 40 temporary foreign workers from Latin America have finally been paid the tens of thousands of dollars they were each owed for building the Canada Line rapid transit link between Vancouver and Richmond.

The payout brings to an end a five-year-long battle between SELI Canada, SNC Lavalin and the workers, whom a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal ruled in 2008 were discriminated against in wages, accommodation, meals and expenses when compared to their European colleagues.

Quoted

"If (companies) think that there is going to be benefits to bring in workers from outside of Canada (and) exploit them at every level ... the human-rights tribunals and the courts in Canada will say 'foul.' "

Lee Loftus, president of the B.C. Building Trades Council

Details of the settlement and video of the workers receiving their cheques in Costa Rica will be made public Wednesday.

Lee Loftus, president of the B.C. Building Trades Council, said the settlement sends an important message to employers.

"If they think that there is going to be benefits to bring in workers from outside of Canada, exploit them at every level, whether it's through wages, or through economizations or with the threat of deportation, (the settlement showed) that the human-rights tribunals and the courts in Canada will say, 'foul,' and make the awards as full benefits."

The workers were brought in on temporary visas and were employed with others in boring a tunnel that forms a major part of the transit line linking Vancouver International Airport in Richmond and Vancouver.

But the Labourers' Union, also known as the Construction and Specialized Workers' Union, launched a complaint with the tribunal and named the Canada Line builders, SELI Canada, SNCP-SELI Joint Venture and SNC Lavalin as respondents.

The tribunal ruled foreign workers were treated differently, noting European workers were paid an average wage roughly twice the base net salary of the Latin American workers.

The tribunal ordered the companies to pay the workers the difference between the salary paid to them and the salary paid to others, as well as the difference in paid expenses and $10,000 each worker for injury to their dignity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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North Korea keeps up tough talk, vows to restart nuclear reactor

More bellicose rhetoric. UN secretary-general says country 'on a collision course with the international community'

South Korean soldiers gather in the border city of Paju, north of Seoul, on Tuesday. North Korea vowed Tuesday to restart a nuclear reactor that can make one bomb's worth of plutonium a year, escalating tensions already raised by near-daily warlike threats against the U.S. and South Korea. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea said Tuesday it will restart its shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material, in what some see as its latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war.

A spokesman for the North's General Department of Atomic Energy said scientists will quickly begin "readjusting and restarting" the facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, including the plutonium reactor and a uranium-enrichment plant. Both could produce fuel for nuclear weapons.

The announcement will boost concerns in Washington about North Korea's timetable for building a nuclear missile that can reach the U.S., although it is believed to be years away from that technology.

The nuclear vows and a rising tide of threats in recent weeks are seen as efforts by the North to force disarmament-for-aid talks with Washington and to increase domestic loyalty to young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by portraying him as a powerful military commander. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reactor history

Nyongbyon nuclear complex

The reactor began operations in 1986, but was shut down as part of international disarmament talks in 2007 that have since stalled.

In 2008, North Korea destroyed the complex's cooling tower in a show of commitment, but the deal later stalled after the North balked at allowing international fact-checking of its nuclear activities. North Korea pulled out of the talks in April 2009.

Experts estimate it could take from three months to a year to reactivate the reactor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fallen from grace. Former priest pleads guilty to meth charges

A suspended U.S.-based Catholic priest accused of making more than $300,000 in methamphetamine sales while running a sex shop pleaded guilty on Tuesday to a federal drug charge.

Kevin Wallin, 61, admitted to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and was scheduled to be sentenced June 25.

The prosecution and defence agreed on a sentence of 11 to 14 years in prison.

Prosecutors said Wallin had meth mailed from California and sold the drugs out of his apartment last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspicions

- Kevin Wallin was suspended from public ministry last May amid concerns by church officials about a number of problems, including sexually inappropriate behaviour with other men.
- Church leaders say they weren't aware of Wallin's involvement with drugs.

Gun debate

Schools should arm staff members, NRA report says

Schools across the U.S. should train staff members to carry weapons and should each have armed security officers to make students safer and allow a quicker response to an attack, the director of a National Rifle Association-sponsored study said on Tuesday.

"The presence of an armed security personnel in a school adds a layer of security and diminishes the response time that is beneficial to the overall security," said former Republican Rep. Asa Hutchinson, who led the study. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario pair's al-Qaida links stun community

Xristos Katsiroubas, left, and Ali Medlej are pictured in a 2005-06 London South Collegiate Institute yearbook. The high-school friends were part of an al-Qaida-led terrorist attack in Algeria. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO IN LONDON

Ali Medlej was a football player. "A big guy," as Darek Bishop puts it. "He was probably, like, six foot two, 250 pounds."

Xristos Katsiroubas was a "preppy kid" whose demeanour changed sometime between his first and second years of high school.

"He started hanging out with shady people, and I saw him change," Bishop said. "He was talking different, his whole attitude changed."

It's been more than five years since Bishop roamed the halls of a London, Ont., high school with Medlej and Katsiroubas.

Now he — and many other Londoners — are left wondering how two local boys could be part of an al-Qaida-led attack on an Algerian gas plant. "I smoked cigarettes two feet away from (Katsiroubas)," said Bishop, 23. "I didn't expect any of this to happen."

There were more questions than answers on Tuesday after reports that Medlej and Katsiroubas were the two Canadians found dead at the plant, where terrorists waged a four-day siege in January during which 38 hostages and 29 militants were killed.

Leaders of the Muslim community quickly denounced the terrorists' actions and called for greater understanding.

Dr. Munir El Kassem, of the Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario, and others said they didn't know Medlej or Katsiroubas, both of whom converted to Islam from other faiths while in their teens.

"Radical views" are not welcome at the London Muslim Mosque, El Kassem said, adding he doesn't believe such teachings are happening elsewhere in the city.

"Everyone comes here to pray, and we have announced over and over our doors are open," El Kassem said. "We do not worship behind closed doors." MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO IN LONDON

Were there accomplices?

- Media reports suggest CSIS was asking questions about Medlej and Katsiroubas in 2007.
- Two others from the London area might have travelled to Algeria with Medlej and Katsiroubas, reports say, but it isn't known if they were involved in the attack.
- Intelligence officials have said dozens of Canadians have ventured abroad, or tried to do so, to take part in violent operations in other countries.

Student says she was accused of sex work

U.S. border. Customs flagged her for carrying condoms and lingerie, UBC student alleges

KATE WEBB
Metro in Vancouver

A UBC student who tried to go through U.S. customs three times last month while carrying condoms and sexy lingerie says she was interrogated for hours, accused of being a sex worker and warned she could be banned from the U.S. for five years.

Creative-writing student Clay Nikiforuk, 24, has asked that her real name be withheld. She said she was told she now needs a visa proving she has no intent to settle in the U.S. to cross the border.

Her ordeal started in early March. Alone, she boarded a bus to Boston from Montreal, where she lives and is enrolled in distance education.

At the border crossing in Vermont, she said officers questioned her about eight or so condoms in her suitcase and about her undergarments.

"I was like, 'Yeah, some girls like shoes, I like nice underwear,' and then realized it was really not funny," she said. "They were taking it very seriously ... and looking at my condoms and counting them."

Nikiforuk was eventually let through but didn't learn until later she had been flagged as a suspected prostitute.

On March 24, she was back in Montreal heading through U.S. customs on a flight to Aruba via Miami accompanied by a married man.

Clay Nikiforuk, who asked that her real name be withheld, says she was interrogated by U.S. border agents for eight hours last week and denied a flight on suspicion of being a sex worker. CONTRIBUTED

Nikiforuk said the man's wife knows about their affair.

She said as soon as she gave her passport to U.S. border control she was asked, "How much is he paying you to go on this trip?"

When she said he was not, she was berated for participating in adultery but let go.

When it was time to travel home from Aruba on March 27, she says U.S. customs interrogated her for eight hours. When asked what, if not sex work, she does for a living, she said she is writing a book about sexual assault.

"He asked, 'Are you looking to be sexually assaulted?'" she said. She alleges that after hours of interrogation, she was denied entry to the U.S., although her partner was not questioned. They spent $900 each on plane tickets to Canada via Panama, plus paid for two extra nights in a hotel.

She admits she has been paid for some freelance modelling work in the U.S. but insists she was questioned in all three instances in March primarily on suspicion of being a sex worker.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said he cannot comment due to privacy laws, but that in general anyone coming into the U.S. frequently is assumed to be an intended immigrant.

Legal checkup

Suspicion is enough

Miami-based immigration lawyer Steve Goldstein said he's never heard of someone being barred from entering the U.S. solely because they were carrying condoms.

And he said he suspects there were likely other factors at play when Clay Nikiforuk (not her real name) was denied entry to the U.S. after travelling to Aruba, such as her website stating she poses for nude modelling photo shoots and the fact she was travelling with a married man.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol spokesman Mike Milne said suspicion of prostitution is enough to deny someone admission to the country under U.S. immigration law.

"If they have suspicion of something, and it's something that falls under the Immigration Act as a ground of inadmissibility, they pretty much are judge and jury," Goldstein said. "They make the decision: you're in or you're out."

Nikiforuk still contends she is the victim of a sexist double standard, because a man would never be investigated to begin with simply for carrying condoms and nice underwear. METRO

Robocalls. Tory worker charged in election fraud

Neither Elections Canada nor the public prosecutors' office would comment on the nature of the charge. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A junior Conservative campaign worker in Guelph has been charged under the Elections Act for fraudulent robocalls made during the 2011 election campaign.

The charge was confirmed by the lawyer for Michael Sona, a young employee on the campaign of candidate Marty Burke.

Elections Canada has been investigating hundreds of fraudulent calls in Guelph and dozens of other ridings that purported to be from the elections regulator.

Voters were told their polling stations had been moved, part of an alleged scam to suppress non-Conservative voters.

Sona, now 24, asserts that he is being made a scapegoat by the party brass. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kamloops

Alleged jail-sex voyeurs at hearing

A preliminary hearing is underway in a Kamloops court for three RCMP officers and a jail guard who are accused of watching two women having sex in a cell.

Cpl. Kenneth Brown and constables Evan Elgee and Stephen Zaharia are each charged with one count of breach of trust by a public officer in connection with the August 2010 incident. Guard David Tompkins faces a similar allegation.

The Crown alleges the four did not act when surveillance cameras showed two drunken women having sex.

Instead of intervening, the men are accused of calling their colleagues to watch, even though the women were likely too drunk to be able to consent to sex, and one had already told officers she had HIV. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Are airline's fat fares fair?

Pay-as-you-weigh. Samoa Air will charge passengers for baggage — and personal bulk

Samoa Air has become the first airline in the world to charge passengers by weight.

Instead of a flat rate per seat, the airline will charge passengers a fixed price per kilogram, with the price varying depending on the route.

The pay-as-you-weigh system was announced on the airline's website. "We at Samoa Air are keeping airfares fair, by charging our passengers only for what they weigh. You are the master of your Air 'fair,' you decide how much (or little) your ticket will cost.

"No more exorbitant excess baggage fees, or being charged for baggage you may not carry. Your weight plus your baggage items is what you pay for. Simple."

Passenger poundage

"Anyone who travels at times has felt they have been paying for half of the passenger next to them."
Chris Langton, CEO of Samoa Air

The airline posted the news on its Facebook page, getting mixed reactions. Some liked the idea, while one dissenter, Guvanch Meredov, called it "immoral and discriminating." Another suggested the policy is like asking people with bigger feet to pay extra for bigger shoes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pay-as-you-weigh airfares are unlikely to come to Canada because of human rights legislation and other legal issues. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Telemarketing. CRTC fines firms for robocalls

Canada's telecommunications regulator has fined two companies over their telemarketing practices. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission says Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions both failed to get the consent of people they robocalled to promote their services.

The regulator's rules bar companies from using auto-diallers without the permission of the people being called. The CRTC fined Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance $69,000 and Quick Connect Solutions $11,000.

"We appreciate that Ontario Consumer Credit Assistance and Quick Connect Solutions fully co-operated with our investigation and committed to changing their telemarketing practices," CRTC chief compliance officer Andrea Rosen said in a statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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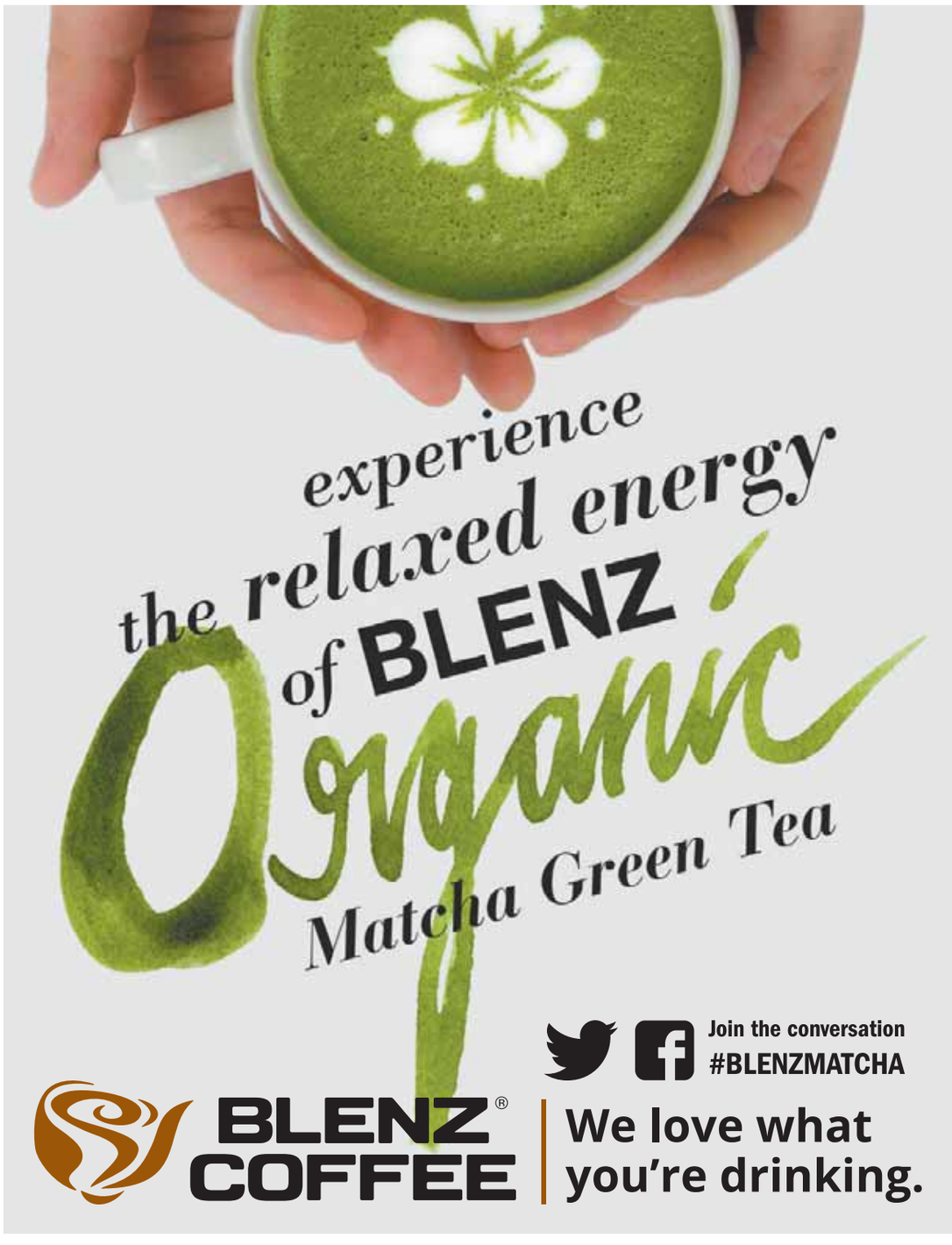

IT'S ALL COMING UP WIKI

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's a game I like to play with myself.

No, not that game.

It's a game called "If I time-travelled to today from the year I was born, what about the future would most blow my mind?"

Never mind when I was born. You just need to know it was long ago and far away.

There are lots of candidates: the microwave oven, the smartphone, the car that parks itself, drones, ebooks, the International Space Station, will.i.am, The Bachelorette.

But how about Wikipedia?

All the knowledge of the world at your fingertips. Over 22 million articles in 285 languages, 4.2 million in English alone.

Wikipedia has only been around since 2001, and already it's solved the stupid dinner-party argument. Now, instead of a long, boring argument, there's a moment of silence as everyone (let's be honest, just the guys) finds the answer on Wikipedia.

While it takes all the fun out of being a know-it-all — now anyone can be a know-it-all — it cuts down on relationship wear and tear.

"I can't believe you allowed that fathead Charles to bait you like that. Just let it go. Who cares what the national bird of Argentina is?"

"I care. It's the Rufous Hornero."

That was then. Now, in the future, the Rufous Hornero and other contentious beasts are at your fingertips, in a Wikipedia article called National Animals.

They don't call it wiki ("quick" in Hawaiian) pedia (for "encyclopedia") for nothing.

As you probably know, Wikipedia is written and edited by mostly anonymous people who do it for nothing. They are constantly working away on this global treasure, editing and updating the articles 24/7.

So far, there have been more than 600 million edits. Talk about a peer review. And April is contributors' month in Canada, when Wikipedia nerds organize workshops designed to make articles better. Sign me up for the Rufous Hornero session.

Of course, Wikipedia has its detractors. Despite its strict policy of neutrality, some people think they see biases. But those are the people who see biases everywhere (See Wikipedia: Noam Chomsky). Others are concerned that relying on reliable sources breeds orthodoxy.

Imagine what they'd say if Wikipedia switched to unreliable sources.

In one lifetime, we've gone from a world where only a few wealthy nations had access to the world's knowledge, and even that required access to a good reference library. Now, instead of a library, all you need is a smartphone. Instead of a librarian telling you to shush! you can ask Wikipedia. Yell if you like.

This year it's expected that smartphones account for 70 per cent of the mobile-device market in the U.S. (Wikipedia: smartphone). I'm not sure what happens when all that knowledge gets around, as even a little learning is a dangerous thing.

There's another term for Wikipedia. It's called Pandora's Box.

Look it up. You know where.

ZOOM

A canyon of colours

Photography art that's a snap

This image looks as if it was taken in a fantastical canyon on some alien planet. In truth, it's an amazing picture of Arizona's Antelope Canyon taken by amateur photographer Gregory Boratyn.

The 42-year-old software engineer from San Diego has shown the popular geological wonder in a new light thanks to clever use of photo software.

"First, I decided to make them monochrome," said Boratyn.

"The place in the summertime is quite cold, so instead of black and white I decided to go with blue and black to emphasize the coldness of the rock and the place itself. The colours of red, orange and blue are called complementary and they made the image more pleasant to human eyes, which was my intention."

METRO WORLD NEWS

GREGORY BORATYN/REX FEATURES

It lens itself to admiration

- Photography software used to enhance the canyon's textures: Nik Silver Efex Pro 2, Viveza 2, Adobe Photoshop CS6.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Ready to make the leap from fledgling sophisticated patron of the arts to bona fide sophisticated patron of the arts? Help yourself along with these entry-level primers on classical music and opera.

Opera Five

The Toronto-based collective's cheeky Opera Cheats series strips away the more intimidating aspects of opera to reveal the murder and adultery that's been entertaining us for centuries. (youtube.com/operafive)

CDZA

Classical musicians woo new fans with cool experiments such as a piece based entirely on classic ringtones or a pop medley that showcases key changes. Occasional cross-dressing and sax-playing dinosaurs keep things lively. (cdzamusic.com)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Did you know it takes a 22-km walk to burn off a Big Mac meal? What food would you walk 22 km for?

@MR_BF7: That does not include the GREASE!

@JessicaSquibb: tub of coconut oil. Weird?

@bexbz: Literally nothing

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

Comments

RE: Freezing Weather Wipes Out German Flea Circus, published March 31

A day early, folks a day early.
Myworkisdonehere posted to metronews.ca

RE: Americans Furious Over Google's Easter 'Doodle', published March 31

Google is a business. They owe zero allegiance to ANY religion on ANY day of the year. (American here.)
Koreginald posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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Ceremony

Elton John and partner to be celebrated

Elton John and his longtime songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin, will be honoured at this year's Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

John and Taupin, who teamed on most of the singer's best-known hits, will receive the Johnny Mercer Award during the June 13 ceremony in New York.

Elton John
GETTY IMAGES

Video

Leno and Fallon poke fun at Late Night rumours

Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon poked fun at the late-night rumours swirling around them in a music video that aired between their back-to-back NBC shows Monday night.

In a spoof of the romantic ballad Tonight from West Side Story, Leno, who was backstage at the Tonight show on the West Coast, and Fallon, in his Late Night office in Manhattan, serenaded each other by cellphone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jane Levy stars in the latest instalment of Evil Dead, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

What could go wrong at a remote cabin? Lots

Horror films. Evil Dead returns this weekend, bringing a fresh take on the genre that has seen lots of clueless, pretty people killed over the years

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Are there any more frightening words in a horror movie synopsis than "five friends head to a remote cabin?"

That phrase has been the starting point for many scary scripts, conjuring up visions of ancient evil life forms, dangerous hillbilly types, mysterious incantations and lines like, "No matter what, we have to stay together."

The cabin-in-the-woods genre is decades old, but almost always follows the same formula: five good-looking teens, say, a jock, a stoner, some hot girls, one a brainiac, and a party girl go to a cabin, and only one or two make it home.

This weekend's Evil Dead shakes up the formula to an extent.

In it some handsome people head to an isolated cottage not to drink and party but to help Mia (Jane Levy) kick her addiction to drugs.

The details are different, but the outcome — and this isn't a spoiler, just a statement of fact — is the same and that's what we like about the genre.

The most well loved cabin in the woods movies must be the first two Sam Raimi Evil Dead films.

The original, and namesake of the series, was actually shot in a real life abandoned cottage.

In it five friends go to a cabin in the woods (sound familiar?), discover a Book of the Dead and unleash flesh-possessing demons.

It made a star of Bruce Campbell and led to a sequel, Evil Dead II, another cabin movie that is equal parts silly and scary.

Eli Roth made his directorial debut with Cabin Fever, a movie inspired by real life events.

The idea for a film about a group of friends in a (you guessed it!) cabin in the woods, tormented by a flesh-eating virus and homicidal townsfolk, came to him as he worked on a horse farm.

"I was cleaning hay out of this barn and got this infection on my face," he says.

The rash got so bad that, "I went to shave and I literally shaved a third of my face off."

It hurt, but he looked at the bright side.

"I thought, 'This is actually going make a great movie one day.'"

Sleepaway Camp — ignore the sequels, although the number two's title Unhappy Campers is pretty great — sets the action at a summer camp.

This gory slasher flick is most notable for a wild twist ending that has been called a "jaw-dropping, tape-rewinding, pause-and-stare-and-call-your-friends-over-to-stare" moment.

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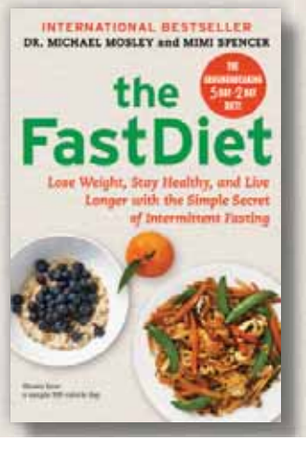
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Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan gets in on the April Fools' Day pranks

Lindsay Lohan made a very last-minute decision to continue her adventures in Brazil this week, making her way to the São Paulo airport for a flight back to New York only to opt out of getting on the plane, according to E! News.

While her manager took the flight as planned, Lohan reportedly checked herself into the Emiliano Hotel alone with a female friend.

"She's staying on her own dime," a source says. "She is staying against everyone's advice."

Lohan's promotional trip to Brazil for a denim company was to be followed by a quick trip to NYC before heading to L.A. for the Coachella Music Festival and then 90 days of court-ordered rehab.

The extended vacation also gave Lohan a chance to get in on the fun of pulling an April Fools' prank on her Twitter followers, posting, "It's official. Pregnant..." and drawing a flood of shocked reactions.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

What's lower than scamming kids with cancer?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Oh man. This is not good. I mean, in the spectrum of "not good things," this ranks pretty much at the top: Lamar Odom and wife Khloe Kardashian's charity for kids with cancer looks like a scam.

That's right, they are fleecing kids with cancer.

The only thing worse than scamming kids with cancer? Scamming kids with AIDS. That's it. There's nothing worse. (OK, maybe scamming orphans with AIDS and/or cancer, but that's really it.)

A new report by ESPN (and this marks the first time ESPN has been mentioned in this column) says that Odom's charity, Cathy's Kids, which started in 2004 in honour of Odom's mother who died from stomach cancer, has raised $2.2 million, but not one cent has gone to cancer-related causes.

Instead, it seems like the money has gone to two things: the charity's executive, Jerry DeGregorio, who happened to be the best man in Kardashian's and Odom's wedding, and two elite youth basketball travel teams. It's important to note that none of the kids in the "elite basketball team" seem to be battling cancer in between games.

When approached by ESPN, Odom brushed off the allegations with, "It's my money."

Actually, if you raise $2.2 million by having people donate their cash to help children with cancer, it's not your money. I swear. Do I have to go to Hollywood myself to teach these people how to act?

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber's pals living it up at his place

It turns out Justin Bieber doesn't even have to be home to show his friends a good time.

According to E! News, about four male pals have been crashing at Bieber's L.A. area home and throwing some pretty raucous parties in his absence, and the neighbours are taking notice.

"The music is loud and everything, but where it is, the homes are so spread apart and so big, so I don't know how they would be able to hear," a source says. "They probably complain because when people come up, there are like 20 cars. That was a crazy party. We were just drinking and doing our thing."

The house guests living it up while Bieber continues his tour include rappers Lil Twist and King Kevi.

Twitter

@BryanSinger
I can finally announce @ladygaga is joining #XMen #DaysofFuturePast as Dazzler. One of my all-time favorite characters. Can't wait!

@ActuallyNPH
My b'day is 6/15. @Davidburtka threw a surprise party for me on Saturday -blown away. I'm now on some lengthy treasure hunt that is unreal!

@lenadunham
Sad day. Realized I'm old enough that my go-to April Fools "I'm Pregnant!" is no longer that disturbing

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Tourists enjoy the rays on the Maho beach near Princess Juliana International Airport. ISTOCK

St. Maarten — the place to sip, shop and sun yourself

Island time. Pristine beaches, frosty rum drinks and plenty of shopping make this the place of cubicle dreams

ALISON BOWEN
life@metronews.ca

Philipsburg is a must-visit site for shopaholics. ISTOCK

St. Maarten, a 60-square-kilometre island, boasts beach after beach, most framed by mountains. And these many waterfronts are put to good use with bars plopped on the water and multiple marinas. St. Maarten fulfils cubicle fantasies: crisp white sailboats against azure waters, fresh and flavourful seafood and imaginative rum drinks. But the island, which is half Dutch and half French, also has a bonanza of different cultures, shown by more than 360 restaurants in surprising variety. So whether you're stopping over before sailing on to nearby St. Barths or St. Kitts or staying for a while, here's where to shop, sip and sun.

For filling your suitcase

Philipsburg, the capital on the Dutch side, is a must-visit for the island's legendary duty-free shopping. Stroll along the winding narrow roads and pop into the numerous jewelry and watch stores. Also a must-see? The Guavaberry Emporium, built in an old cedar house, where you can sample not only the berry liqueur but also a guava colada. The fruit has a mild, unusual sweetness. This shop is also a great place to pick up gifts, like rum bottles with colourful hand-painted sunsets and parrots.

For Caribbean blue skies and seas

Sailing aficionados should schedule their visit during the annual Heineken Regatta, where sailboats race around the island, creating picture-perfect views of colourful, billowing sails dotting royal-blue water. The event promises "serious fun" with parties every night, visitors and locals dancing the night away in flip flops on the sand. Even if you can't sail, make sure to get out on the water — the ocean is so clear, if you jump in, you can see your toes. Even that doesn't impress locals — clear to them means seeing the bottom.

Where to stay

The Sonesta Maho Beach Resort and Casino, undergoing a $3 million renovation, is ideal for travellers who want a sea breeze and tropical drink 10 minutes after landing. The hotel is within walking distance to multiple restaurants, although it is all-inclusive, covering all your meals and rum punches.

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Travel tips

Looking for adventure?

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Nervous to go on an adventure holiday? I would never describe myself as an adrenaline junkie, but on a recent trip to New Zealand I crawled around darkened caves lit only by fluorescent worms, jumped 15,000 feet out of a plane, swam with dolphins in the wild ... and loved it.

As evidenced by my experience, it's not necessary to be a macho 20-something guy to go on an adventure holiday. In fact, the majority of travellers with adventure travel companies are actually women who are of an average age of 38 (though there are many in their 60s or older).

Another misconception is that you must be fighting fit, as you will be cycling the Kalahari Desert or snowshoeing to the North Pole. On the contrary, if you push yourself, even a little, outside of your regular comfort zone you are a certified adventure traveller! It could be a walking tour of Tuscany or making wine in South Africa. Additionally, it is not mandatory to go off the grid and be away for a month to be credible. Many itineraries are as short as 24 to 48 hours and make for a great mini-break from your daily routine or can be stitched into a longer holiday. If your interest is piqued, there are a few things to bear in mind as you weave some adventure into your next vacation:

-Be realistic about your fitness level.

-Go outside your comfort zone but don't freak yourself out.

-Be flexible. It is hard to plan every detail, so expect the unexpected especially when it comes to the weather.

-Read all waivers before signing and ensure you are properly protected.

-Always go with trained and properly certified professionals. Look for an official endorsement on the company's website.

Inject a little adventure in your holiday. PETER REMUS

Room with a view.
Prague TV tower boasts unique hotel option

A tall television tower in the Czech capital of Prague that has been called one of the world's ugliest buildings has a new and unique attraction, a one-room hotel looking out on the city from 70 metres above ground.

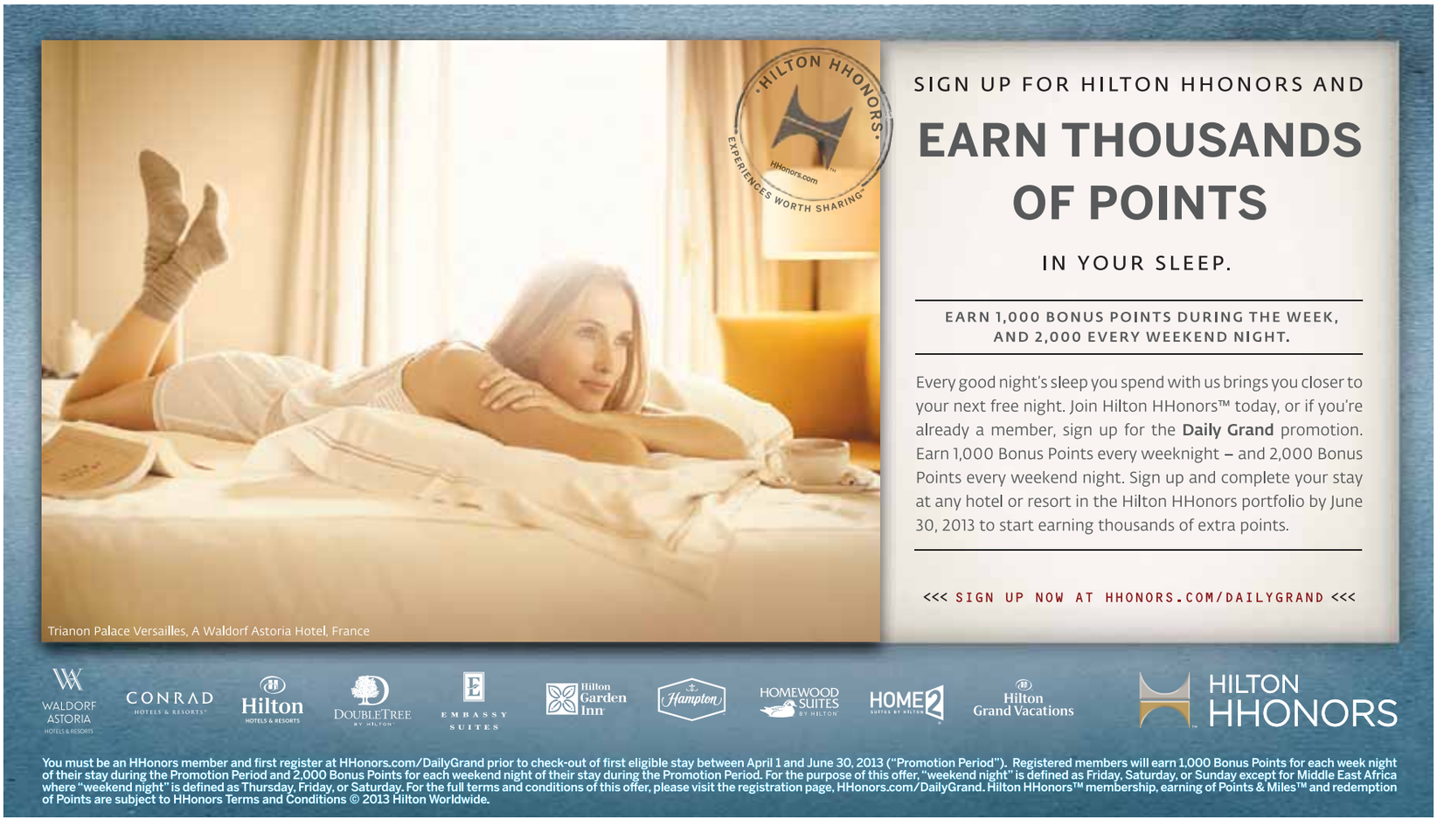
But some might argue the best thing about the view is that you don't have to look at the tower itself. The tower, which stands 216 metres tall, is a dominant but controversial landmark of the city skyline.

Prague is sometimes called the city of 100 spires, but the tower stands out amid the picturesque cityscape of centuries-old churches and other historic sites. It's the city's tallest building, at the equivalent of about 70 stories high, and it was a despised symbol of the communist regime that started building it in 1985. Locals have gradually come to accept it since its completion in 1992, but a 2009 international survey placed it second among the ugliest buildings in the world.

The tower already features a restaurant and observation deck offering a breathtaking view of the city, but a recent, thorough renovation of the spire added the hotel room.

The room is considered so luxurious that it's being advertised as six stars. It opened Feb. 13 and is available for $1,300 a night. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Zizkov TV tower in Prague. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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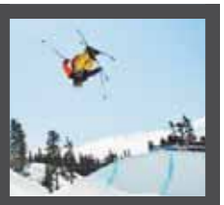

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An ancient sea on top of the world

The Burgess Shale. Add some wonder to your wander with a trek through a site that offers a glimpse of prehistoric times

It's hard to believe that this spot — a rocky ledge well above the tree line — was under water half a billion years ago.

Equally hard to believe is that a slab of shale found there has etched on it — in strikingly sharp detail — the remains of one of Earth's earliest creatures.

It's a trilobite, one of the more common Cambrian-era insect-like critters, whose squishy bodies enabled them to be incredibly well preserved as fossils.

The Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park, in B.C., was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981. It's also part of the larger Rocky Mountain Parks UNESCO World Heritage site.

It's "the most prolific and most significant scientific site, paleontological site, in the world," said Randle Robertson, executive director of the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation. "If you were to stand in Yoho Pass half a billion years ago, you could have walked in knee-deep water all the way to Winnipeg. If you'd stepped the other way, you would have stepped into one of the deepest parts of the ocean at that time," he said. "And then the mountain-building process started and that's when everything got all turned upside-down."

Hiking to the fossil beds is forbidden without a guide from either Parks Canada or the Geoscience Foundation. For both, groups are limited to 12. Removing fossils from the site is against the law.

"The fossils need to stay where they were formed, where they occurred, where the story is," said Kathryn Cameron from the Lake Louise visitor's centre.

"Yes, they're curiosities. Yes, they're interesting. Yes, we'd love to have one on our mantel at home to talk about it. But we might be losing a really critical piece of the puzzle of life."

Hikes go four times weekly to Walcott Quarry between July and mid-September and twice weekly to the Mount Stephen fossil bed between late June and mid-September.

The Parks Canada Walcott Quarry hike costs $70 per adult, and the Mount Stephen one costs $55. The Geoscience Foundation offers hikes for $120 per adult to Walcott Quarry and $90 to Mount Stephen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Burgess Shale was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1981. THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go...

- **Book a hike through Parks Canada.** pc.gc.ca
- **Book a hike through the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation.** burgess-shale.bc.ca

Finding fossils in the Burgess Shale can be a thrill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Roasted acorn squash teams up with maple syrup in soup

Roasted Acorn Squash Soup

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Ingredients

- 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) maple syrup
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 large carrot, peeled and chopped
- 1 small Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 l (4 cups) chicken broth, plus 250 ml (1 cup) for thinning
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground thyme
- Pinch of nutmeg
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) fresh lemon juice
- Diced apple and fresh chives for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. Brush cut side of squash with maple syrup and place cut side down on a baking sheet lightly coated with 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the olive oil. Bake 45 minutes or until tender. Allow to cool, then scrape out the squash flesh and set aside.

3. In a 4-litre (4-quart) saucepan, heat remaining 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic, onion, carrot and apple. Cook for 5 minutes, then reduce heat to low and cover. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until vegetables are soft.

4. Add the cooked squash, 1 litre (4 cups) broth, thyme, and nutmeg. Simmer for 20 minutes. Allow to cool.

5. Once the mixture has cooled, blend (in two batches) in food processor or blender until smooth. Reheat soup and season to taste with salt and freshly ground pepper. Stir in fresh lemon juice and add more broth if soup is too thick. Garnish with apple and chives.

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- 1/4 oz egg white
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Get on the case pre-career

Constructive competition. Try out this terrific testing ground for your future field of choice

MICHELLE CIRCOSTA
TalentEgg.ca

Even in the later stages of one's career, the job hunt can be a gruelling multi-step process. The difficulty for students trying to land their first job is that it isn't always easy to get a feel for what exactly the role entails or what a company can truly offer.

This can evidently make it near impossible to sell yourself in an interview. If you yourself are unsure about why you want the job or your reasons for applying to a certain company, how can you possibly convince your interviewer that you are the perfect fit? This is where a case competition can come in handy.

The benefits of case competitions for students:

Hands-on experience
With the jobs that interest me (as a marketing major), I have found that these competitions provide the most hands-on, realistic simulations of what it would be like to take on a specific role.

Unique networking opportunities
With these types of competitions, you also have the opportunity to meet and interact with various representatives from the company as you progress through the stages. This is a unique networking experience because you not only have the chance to meet these individuals, but you also have the opportunity to pick their brain regarding the work you have done on the case.

Campus recruitment
I have personally participated in several different case competitions, but the most intense and valuable have been those with recruitment as their main purpose.

These competitions are run by the employers themselves with the purpose of seeking enthusiastic and driven candidates, either for internships or full-time, entry level positions.

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Keep your eyes peeled for case competitions being hosted within your post-secondary institution. ISTOCK

What is a case competition?

- **In a case competition, participants work in teams to solve a real-world business case study within a short period of time.**
- After conducting a bit of research, brainstorming ideas and consulting experts to find the best solution to the case study, they are typically required to formally present their solution as a team to a panel of judges.
- The winning team is usually awarded a prize and sometimes employers use the pool of talent to hire interns and entry level employees. For many, case competitions serve as hands-on business experience, achievements they can add to their resumé and job interviews with prestigious employers.

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Not all job interviews are created equal

So what's your type?

Whether it's in-person, in a group or on the phone, you'll know how to impress with these insider tips

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

So you've done the hard work of sending in your application for that dream internship, perfecting your resumé, creating that awesome cover letter, sending in your transcript. And you've been chosen for an interview. Yay!

Now comes the time to prepare and brush up on your interview skills.

One of the things you need to consider is what type of interview is it? Read below for the three main types of interviews to see what employers are looking for in each type and what you can do to ace the interview.

One-on-one interview

This is the most common type.

What the employer is seeking

It involves you and the interviewer having a one-on-one chat about why you've applied for the position, discussing your qualifications and past experiences and assessing your skills to see if you are a good fit for the employer.

Standing out in a group interview setting is a matter of knowing what to say and when to speak up. ISTOCK

What you should do

- Always bring a copy of your resumé with you to the interview and know what is on your resumé inside and out.
- When the interviewer asks you questions, you will need to refer to specific examples from your resumé and highlight what skills and strengths you developed from those experiences, as well as both the positive and negative aspects of your previous employment and how you dealt with them.
- You will also use your past experiences to talk about a weakness you may have, but make sure to emphasize how you are working to improve on those weaknesses.

Group Interview

This involves you and a few other job seekers who have applied for the same position or department as you. The employer will interview all of you simultaneously to see if you would work well in a team environment with your co-workers.

What the employer is seeking

- In this type of interview, the employer wants to assess your ability to work as part of a team by seeing you in action.
- The employer will judge you based on how you well you interact with the other applicants and your contributions to the interview discussion.

What you should do:

- Greet the other applicants and introduce yourself.
- Don't interrupt other applicants when they're talking but feel free to contribute to others' answers.
- Know what your own personal strength is when working in a team, and showcase that role well.

Study up!

Regardless of what type of interview it is, the key to acing it is practise, practise, practise!

- Consider checking in with your school's career service department to see if they offer mock interview, resumé critiques, and other interview help.

Telephone Interview

Based on your availability and time or location constraints, the employer may decide to interview you on the phone.

What the employer is seeking

- The employer will want to hear a clear, vibrant voice.
- He/she will be testing your ability to think on the spot and articulate your answers.

What you should do

- Firstly, schedule a phone call for a time when you know you for sure that you will be available.
- Again, have your resumé in front of you so that you can be ready to answer questions.
- Don't rush your answers, but instead take the time to form clear responses.
- Keep a calendar/agenda handy, so that you can take down important notes.

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LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Your resumé was flawless. Your cover letter impressed. You aced the interview. Now there's nothing left to do but wait. Right?

Wrong.

According to an Accountemps survey, 66 per cent of HR managers say it's beneficial to one's job search to send a thank you note after the job interview.

Raffi Toughlouian, division director of Accountemps, says a thank you note is "a good vehicle for you to reiterate your interest in a potential position, as well as reference back to specific points in the conversation that were of interest to both you and the interviewer."

Thus, a quick "thanks" not only allows you to showcase your manners, but once again gives you the chance to try and nab a position.

How to write a good thank you note

Toughlouian offers the following advice for students and recent grads who are whipping up a note of gratitude:

- Keep it brief and concise
- Provide a brief recap of the skills you can bring to the job
- Be specific by highlighting key conversation points that stood out to you
- Time is of the essence: thank you notes should be sent out within 24 hours of the interview

When writing your thank you note, use an enthusiastic tone and keep all the content positive. ISTOCK

Should you send a thank you note by email or snail mail?

"I still think there's a bit of charm to a handwritten note," Toughlouian says, "but in this day and age email just makes the most sense."

Sometimes in an interview there will be a business card exchange, which is a good indicator that email is an acceptable form of communication.

In fact, more than two thirds of HR managers say they prefer email, while 48 per cent say they'd still appreciate a handwritten note.

"[Email] is also the least intrusive method of communication," Toughlouian adds. Not only that, but it ensures the message will actually get to the recipient.

For job interview situations that have multiple interviewers, direct your thank you note to the person who you had the most contact with or who booked the meeting.

You then have the option of copying (or "cc-ing") anyone else who participated in the interview. If this is the case, ensure your content is inclusive and speaking to everyone (e.g., "Thank you all for your time today…").

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Take note

What if the interview didn't go well?

- No matter how you feel the interview went, you should still send a thank you note. The interviewer may think the interview went just fine and, Toughlouian says, "You don't want to make that kind of assumption or decision for them."
- If the interview did go poorly for both ends, you should still thank the employer for their time and their consideration of you in the first place.

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Teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL)	
Tuesday, April 9, 12 p.m. - room 518	Downtown
Transportation trades	
Tuesday, April 9, 11 a.m. - lobby, building B	Broadway
Tuesday, April 16, 11 a.m. - lobby, building B	Broadway
Electronic media design (part-time)	
Tuesday, April 9, 3 p.m. - room 819	Downtown
Web and graphic design (part-time)	
Tuesday, April 9, 3 p.m. - room 819	Downtown
Baking and pastry arts	
Wednesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. - room 216	Downtown
Music	
Wednesday, April 10, 12 p.m. - room 1227	Broadway
Culinary arts and Asian culinary arts	
Friday, April 12, 9:30 a.m. - room 112 (theatre)	Downtown
Accelerated gemmology	
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The Canucks acquired Derek Roy from the Dallas Stars on Tuesday. Roy has four goals and 22 points so far this season. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Roy trade gives Canucks flexibility

NHL. Vancouver ships blue-line prospect Connauton and a second-rounder to Dallas

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

The Vancouver Canucks dipped into the trade waters on Tuesday, picking up that much-needed man up the middle.

The Canucks acquired Derek Roy from the Dallas Stars in exchange for prospect defenceman Kevin Connauton and a second-round pick in this year's NHL draft.

The Canucks have been ravaged by injury this season, particularly at the centre position.

Manny Malhotra was put on the injured list due to safety concerns resulting from a devastating eye injury two years ago.

Ryan Kesler missed the first month of the season recovering from off-season shoulder and wrist surgeries, and then, after returning to the lineup for seven games, was sidelined with a fractured foot.

Roy, at the age of 29 and in the final year of a six-year, $24-million US contract, provides the Canucks with flexibility, general manager Mike Gillis said.

The Canucks could still try to move goaltender Roberto Luongo — and his 12-year, $64-million contract with a no-trade clause — before the trade deadline Wednesday at noon.

"It allows us to focus on different areas that we weren't focused on before because we were trying to fill this void in our lineup," Gillis said during a conference call.

Roy will wear No. 15 for the Canucks.

He had four goals and 22 points in 30 games with the Stars, although he was hampered by a groin injury at the start of the season.

"When I came back, it started lingering again and then it finally went away last maybe five, six games," Roy said.

Roy was originally traded from the Buffalo Sabres to the Stars in July, and then underwent a shoulder operation. He had previously spent eight seasons in Buffalo.

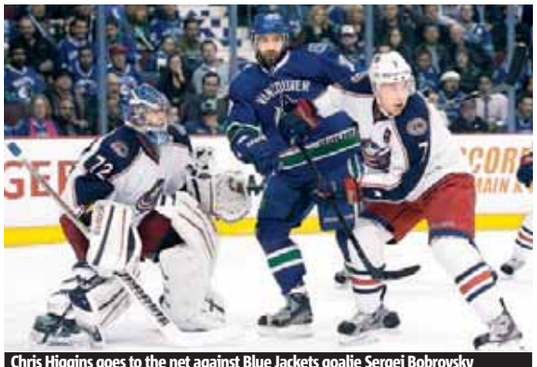
His best season was in 2007-08, when he scored 32 goals and had 81 points in 78 games.

The next step is figuring out where Roy slots into the lineup.

"We're going to get him in here and get him comfortable and that will be a coach's decision — where he ultimately plays and who he plays with," Gillis said.

"I really think we have a great third line if he was playing between Jannik Hansen and Chris Higgins. There's an opportunity for him to play as our second-line centre with (Kesler) on the wing.

"So we have lots of flexibility and more flexibility than we had yesterday."



Chris Higgins goes to the net against Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky and Jack Johnson on March 26 at Rogers Arena. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Higgins gets 4-year deal with Vancouver

Tuesday turned out to be a busy one for the Vancouver Canucks.

Not long after acquiring centre Derek Roy from the Dallas Stars in exchange for a prospect and a second-round pick in this year's draft, the Canucks announced that forward Chris Higgins had re-signed with the team.

The four-year contract worth a reported $10 million works out to an average of $2.5 million per season.

Higgins, a trade-deadline acquisition of the Canucks in 2011 prior to their run to the Stanley Cup final, was in the last year of a two-year deal with Vancouver.

The 29-year-old from Smithtown, N.Y., has nine goals and 14 points in 35 games with the Canucks this season.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

NHL

Clowe chooses East over West, signs with Rangers

The Vancouver Canucks were in pursuit of rugged forward Ryane Clowe, but the former San Jose Shark chose to waive his no-trade clause and head to New York.

Clowe, 30, was acquired by the Rangers, although it was reported that the decision ultimately came down to Vancouver and New York.

ESPN New York reported that, in exchange for Clowe, the Sharks got second- and third-round picks in this year's NHL draft and a conditional second-round pick in 2014.

Canucks general manager Mike Gillis, speaking on a conference call with reporters on Tuesday afternoon, would not get into the specifics of what the Canucks offered the Sharks for Clowe.

"We were in there trying to make a deal," Gillis said. "I won't tell you what the particulars are of that deal. We were active in the pursuit of it."

Clowe, from Mount Pearl, N.L., is in the final year of a four-year deal and is a pending unrestricted free agent.

He hasn't scored a goal this season, but he had 11 assists in 28 games with the Sharks. He also could provide considerable size on the wing. He stands six-foot-two and weighs 225 pounds.

Gillis said the Canucks spoke with Clowe's agent, but the opportunity for Clowe to go back to the East Coast factored into his decision to choose New York.

"He liked our team, liked the situation," Gillis said. "But (it) sounds like geography was the dictating feature."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

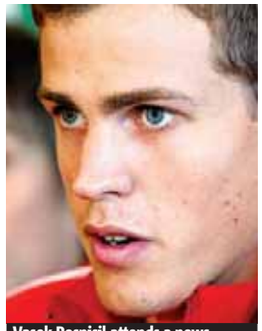
The New York Rangers acquired Ryane Clowe on Tuesday in a trade with the San Jose Sharks. GETTY IMAGES

Nestor, Pospisil put meltdown behind them, focus on Italy

Tennis. Canadian tandem expected to face world No. 3 duo at Davis Cup on Saturday

Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil may have put the meltdown they suffered against Spain behind them, but the road won't get any easier against Italy in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final tie this weekend.

Nestor, 40, teamed with 22-year-old Pospisil for the doubles rubber in Canada's first-round tie against Spain two months ago and went up 2-1 after three sets against second-ranked doubles duo Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez. But the Canadians imploded in the fourth and fifth set, winning just five games.



Vasek Pospisil attends a news conference ahead of his Davis Cup match. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was the third straight doubles defeat for Canada in Davis Cup play, with Nestor and Pospisil capturing their nation's last doubles triumph in a World Group playoff in Israel in September 2011.

The recent string of doubles defeats is not a major concern for Nestor, a 21-year Davis Cup veteran.

"I think we're not meant to be worried about the way we're playing, plus we're playing on our home court so if we play well we should have a good chance," Nestor said.

The veteran, who is ranked sixth in the world in doubles, also shed some light on the late-match fade-out against Spain. He said he "hit a wall" while it was already known that Pospisil was recuperating from a bout of mononucleosis.

Vancouver's Pospisil once again will be aiming to feed off the energy generated by playing in his hometown and said preparation for Italy won't be any different despite the Spain defeat. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Blue Jays off-kilter to open new era

Justin Masterson kept Blue Jays bats in check as the Cleveland Indians spoiled R.A. Dickey's Toronto debut with a 4-1 win before a sellout opening day crowd of 48,857 at Rogers Centre on Tuesday night.

The loss may be a splash of cold water on the face of Toronto fans already planning a championship parade given the extensive, expensive retooling of the roster over the winter. Cleveland planted a few seeds of reality under the dome but there is still plenty of time for the Jays to harvest wins.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run homer for the Indians, who took advantage of some early passed balls as knuckleballer Dickey's fledgling partnership with catcher J.P. Arencibia showed some teething problems.

Dickey went six innings, giving up four runs (three earned) on five hits with four strikeouts and four walks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL. Lions ship DT Khalif Mitchell to Toronto

Why leave all the big trades to the local hockey team?

The B.C. Lions on Tuesday traded away defensive tackle Khalif Mitchell to the Toronto Argonauts in exchange for defensive lineman Adrian Awasom and a player on the Argos' negotiation list.

The trade closes the books on Mitchell's three-year tenure with the Lions.

The 2011 season was Mitchell's best in a Lions uniform. He had 33 tackles and six sacks, earning West Division and CFL all-star honours.

But his 2012 campaign was marred by controversy. He was fined on two separate occasions, suspended by the league and the Lions for two separate incidents and had just 15 tackles and two sacks in 12 regular-season games.

Mitchell was suspended for two games following a July 20 incident in which he violently twisted the arm of Simeon Rottier, hyper-extending the elbow of the Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman.

At the time, Mitchell defended his actions by calling it a football play. He launched an appeal of the suspension, but the ban was upheld.

Mitchell was fined by the CFL for making throat-slashing gestures during a game against the Eskimos in September.

He received another league fine and a one-game ban from the Lions for a racially insensitive tweet in October.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired all-star tackle Mitchell from the B.C. Lions for defensive end Adrian Awasom and the rights to a negotiation-list player. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Simple yet stylish 2013 Honda CR-Z

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

2013 Honda CR-Z

- **Type.** Two-door, two seat compact hybrid hatchback
- **Engines (hp)**: 1.5-litre SOHC I4 (119 plus a 20-hp electric motor, 130-net horsepower)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable (CVT) option
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $24,500

4X4

The CR-Z's six-speed manual transmission returns with a beefed-up clutch and a different final gear ratio for improved highway efficiency. From driving experience, sticking with the manual with its light, precise shifter is unquestionably your best choice if maximum performance is preferred.

Design

As for its 2013 updates, the good news is that Honda has avoided messing about with the CR-Z's looks, other than installing mesh-look inserts for the grille, fog-light pods and rear bodywork (diffuser) and adding extra bling around the headlights. That also goes for the interior, which now features some fancier trim and reshaped door panels with added bottle holders. Unchanged are the wide and generally comfortable seats.

The look of the grille is new for 2013.

Engine

Under its elongated hood are significant changes to the CR-Z's hybrid heart. The 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine now makes 119 horsepower, up six over the 2012 model. In addition, the nickel-metal-hydride battery pack is replaced with a lighter and more efficient lithium-ion battery pack to backstop the electric motor. The system output is now 130 horsepower and 140 pound-feet of torque on models fitted with the optional CVT.

Review. If there's a standup in the Honda's 2013 lineup, it's the CR-Z, but not for the reasons you might expect

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

When it comes to the 2013 Honda CR-Z, the car's true purpose remains masked by its contradictions, even after receiving a modest makeover and powertrain upgrade.

Visually, the car appears as sporty as all get out and a modern interpretation of the cute little CRX buzz-bomb of the 1980s and early '90s. That Civic-based two-seater was the ideal dance partner for drivers of modest means who wanted something that was light on its feet, looked cool and could perform magic zipping around town or over twisty highways.

Honda envisions a significantly different role for the CR-Z, however, one that blends modest performance with an equally modest attempt at eco-friendliness with its gasoline-electric hybrid power system.

The result is a pretty decent (and attractive) commuter vehicle, but it's ultimately a car that won't set the hearts of sports-car fans aflutter. Like a timid swimmer, the CR-Z only sticks its big toe into the automotive mainstream, something that anyone wishing to avoid the sameness of your typical econo-box should find appealing.

The CR-Z comes with a selectable "3-Mode Drive System" with Sport, Normal and Econ settings to allow the driver a choice of efficiencies in operating performance and fuel consumption. Added for 2013 is a unique Plus Sport System. Provided the battery has at least a 50 per cent charge, pushing the "S+" button on the steering wheel while accelerating produces an extra boost of power that lasts for up to five seconds, regardless of which of the three drive-system modes you're in.

The simple but effective dash/control panel layout is a carryover from the last model.

Fuel economy should be close to the 2012 model's 6.5/5.3 (l/100 km) city/highway numbers, however better results can be achieved with the CVT option that should top out at about 5.6/5.0 city/highway. Other manufacturer's hybrids can do better, but most cost more than the CR-Z's estimated $24,500 asking price, which includes destination charges.

For that entry fee you can count on all of the usual and expected comfort features, along with ambient console lighting, high-intensity discharge headlights and a 360-watt premium audio system. Heated leather seats and a navigation system with rear-view camera are available with the Premium Package.

Otherwise the CR-Z's advantages appear to outweigh its drawbacks. The car's sharp styling, comfortable cabin and extra-roomy and versatile cargo area are not-to-be-overlooked virtues that make it an ideal touring car for two.

By comparison

1 Mini Cooper
Base price: $25,800

2 Fiat 500T
Base price: $22,600

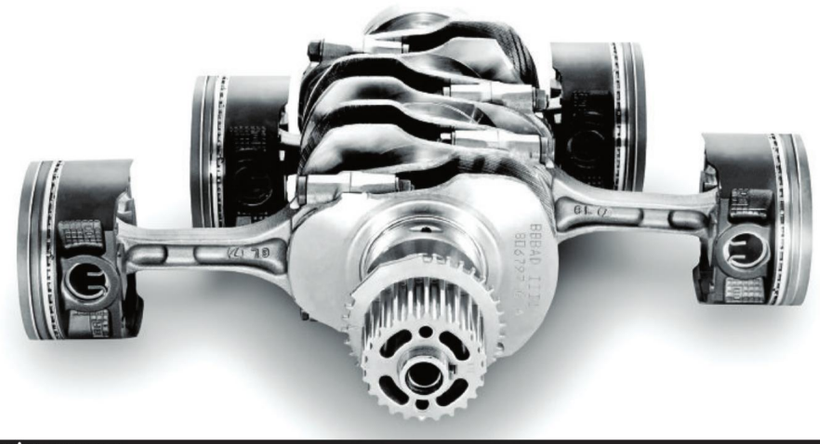
3 Scion tC
Base price: $22,700

DRIVE

Subaru's 'boxer' engine all about balance

Driving Force.
A boxer engine provides predictability and makes it easy to service a vehicle

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca



Subaru's boxer engine. CONTRIBUTED

To most people, a boxer is someone who makes his living in the ring. But there's another definition in the automotive world — it's a type of engine, and the only kind you'll find in a Subaru vehicle.

"It's also called a horizontally opposed or flat engine," says Ted Lalka, vice-president of product planning and marketing for Subaru Canada.

"They tend to be compact and lightweight, and they produce a fair amount of power to weight. They're still used in aviation for those reasons, and our company has a background in the aircraft industry, so we developed an expertise in these types of engines."

The heart of an engine is a large, heavy shaft called the crankshaft. It's attached to pistons, which slide inside cylinders when they're powered by the exploding force of gasoline that's been detonated by the spark plugs. The pistons turn the crankshaft, and its spinning motion is what ultimately turns the car's wheels.

It's similar to the way your legs move up and down to turn the pedals on a bicycle, with that power used to turn the wheels.

On most engines, the pistons are above the crankshaft, either in a straight line (called an inline engine, the most common configuration for four-cylinder engines), or slanted in two banks, forming a V that gives V6 and V8 engines their names. But on a boxer engine, the four or six pistons lie flat on either side of the crankshaft, where they move horizontally in their cylinders to provide power.

A boxer engine isn't as tall as a regular engine, which helps to lower the vehicle's centre of gravity. This improves handling and stability.

"With the boxer engine, it has very good balance between the left and right side, so the vehicle handles in a very predictable manner," Lalka says. "In addition, it makes servicing the vehicle easy. A lot of the components can be placed on top of the engine, so the alternator, water pump, and even the oil filter are right on top where they're easier to reach."

Several companies have used the boxer engine design over the years. Porsche currently uses it in the 911, Boxster and Cayman. Other cars that have used it in the past include the Chevrolet Corvair and original Volkswagen Beetle.

A different type of engine

- The boxer engine is part of Subaru's "symmetrical" all-wheel drive configuration, in which all driveline components are aligned on the car's north-south axis for better balance.
- It's believed that horizontally opposed engines got the name "boxer" because the piston movement looks like boxers jabbing at each other.

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do whatever it takes to make an impression on people in positions of power. With your drive and determination you can and you must find ways to get yourself noticed.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Forget about the negative things in your life — the bills, the quarrels, etc. — and focus on your dreams. The planets indicate that at least one of those dreams will come true over the next few weeks.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you need to improve your financial situation then it's time to make that big move from the planning stage to the doing stage. You know what changes need to be made, so get on with it and make them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Changes seem to be coming quickly at the moment and it may all be getting a bit too much for you. Calm down, make yourself a nice cup of tea and let the planets work their magic. You'll be OK.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It seems you have your fingers in too many pies at the moment and there is a serious possibility they could get burned. Maybe it's time to back off a bit, at least for a while. Sort out your priorities.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your creative juices are bubbling and although some say your ideas are far-fetched, you know they can work. You have so much confidence in your abilities there is nothing you cannot do.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be on good terms with just about everyone today but especially with a group of people who like to go to extremes. That's all fine and dandy but watch out you don't hurt yourself, or other people.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Nothing seems to faze you at the moment. Is that because your circumstances have changed for the better or is it because you finally understand that life is supposed to be fun? Whatever the reason, enjoy!

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Minor problems will likely be magnified into major setbacks today, at least in your head. It is essential that you don't let your fears get out of hand. What happened to that happy-go-lucky, optimistic Sag?

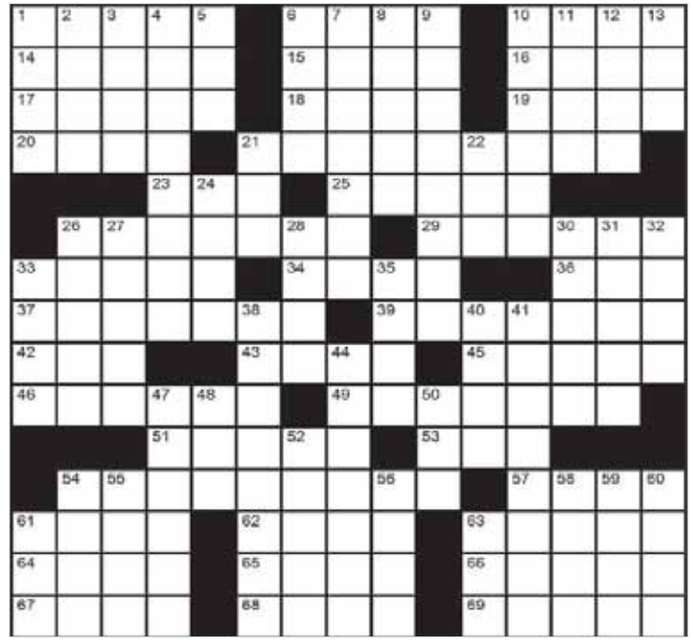
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Pluto in your birth sign gives you great power but it also brings with it responsibility for how you use that power. You may be tempted to use your authority to cut corners today but that would be a mistake.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Others may be urging you to do this or do that but don't listen to them. There is no need to panic or change your lifestyle. Changes will take place but let them happen gradually, not all in one go.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
What is happening in your life may be unsettling but it is also necessary if you are to lead a fuller existence. Whatever is going on won't be happening next week. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

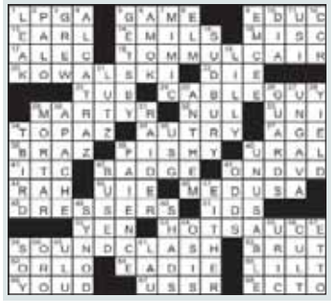
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Winnie-the-Pooh greeting
6. Long-range weapon, commonly
10. Taj†Mahal's site
14. Shake like _ __
15. Actor, Benicio Del __
16. Alaska's famous Glacier
17. Alberta tourist hotspot
18. Canadian news anchor who is 3x Olympian, Rosey __
19. Curves
20. Ice floes animal
21. Winnipeg-born singer/songwriter Chantal
23. Singer Ms. DiFranco
25. Right-hand page
26. Lady Gaga's "Bad __"
29. Virgil epic
33. Tailor's lines
34. Subtraction opp.
36. Francis __, "Love Story" score composer
37. "Piece of cake!": 2 wds.
39. Character in Great Expectations
42. Superagent on "Entourage"
43. "Hey! Hold on _ __!"
45. Makes _ _ (Is untidy)
46. City of Russia
49. Trinidad music style
51. Alan __ (Canadian hubby of Suzanne Somers)
53. Racecar driver Mr. Fabi
54. Fundraising entities
57. Queen's 'Bohemian', e.g.
61. Enthusiasm
62. Swimmer's circuits
63. Shrek's beloved Princess
64. The Phantom's name in Gaston Leroux's classic novel The Phantom of the Opera
65. Itemize
66. Songs
67. Canadian comedian/actor, Jon __
68. Musher's 'vehicle'
69. Some ducks

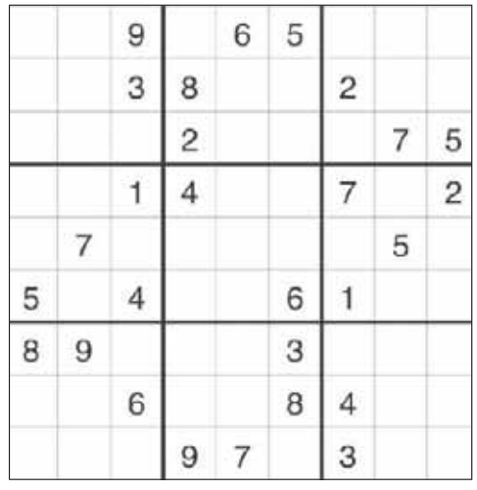
Down
1. Montreal hockey players, to fans
2. Wings: Latin
3. Ms. Horne
4. Chief Anchor of "CTV National News", Lisa __
5. Switch selection
6. Old road of Rome
7. Emergency situation: 2 wds.
8. Alla __ (Music term)
9. Daniel Day-Lewis film, "The Last of the __"
10. Books-selling website
11. Wise adviser
12. Humphrey's part in "Casablanca" (1942)
13. MGM's motto, __ Gratia Artis (Art for Art's Sake)
21. Family
22. Used up
24. Astronaut employer
26. '70s fashion, for instance
27. "Wonderwall" band
28. Islets
30. Ils opposites
31. "_ __ feel that way." (Concurring comment)
32. "Buenos __!"
33. Thailand, formerly
35. Prefix meaning 'Ten'
38. Log-processing sites
40. Mr. Diggs
41. Shopper's dream site
44. "The Twilight Saga: __" (2010)
47. Ottawa-born actress Sarah
48. Rowboat steerer
50. Mil. officers
52. Internet commerce, _-__
54. Kind of mackerel
55. Brushed stuff
56. Approximated, for short
58. Sharpen skills
59. Afresh
60. Backstage __
61. Last letter
63. Alberta's McMurray, et al.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	4
8	5	9	7	1	4	6	3	2
3	7	4	2	9	6	5	1	8
9	3	5	1	2	7	8	4	6
7	4	8	5	6	9	3	2	1
6	2	1	8	4	3	9	5	7
4	8	6	9	3	1	2	7	5
5	1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9
2	9	7	4	5	8	1	6	3

Today
14°/8°
Variable

Thursday
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Rain
80%

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Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
from **$259***
INCLUDES airfare from Bellingham and accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $30 per night.

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights from **$506**◊
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *Park Hopper* Ticket from $249/adult, $234/child (ages 3-9).

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights from **$619**
INCLUDES accom near Union Square.

Kona Air + 7 Nights from **$782**
INCLUDES accom in an oceanfront resort near Kona Beach.

New York Air + 3 Nights from **$1134**
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. **ADD** Empire State Building entry from $23.

Exotic Vacations

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Air + 6 Nights 4-Star
from **$1239**
INCLUDES central accom near The Forbidden City. **ADD** Forbidden City and Badaling Great Wall tour from $227.

Africa 15-Day Tour from **$1158**
HIGHLIGHTS Casablanca, Rabat, Volubilis, Fes, Midelt, the Sahara desert, Todra Gorge, Ait Benhaddou, Aroumd, Essaouira and Marrakech. Travel Casablanca to Marrakech.

Cambodia
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star from **$1864**
INCLUDES city centre accom in Phnom Penh. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** Mekong River sunset cruise from $49.

Thailand Air + 8 Nights 4-Star from **$1864**
INCLUDES roundtrip Bangkok airfare, 4 nights myTime accom in Bangkok, 4 nights accom in Pattaya and roundtrip transfers. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.

Europe

London Air + 6 Nights
from **$1424**
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. **ADD** Red Rover Thames hop-on hop-off tour from $15.

Europe 10-Day Tour from **$1075**
HIGHLIGHTS Madrid, Toledo, Seville, Granada, Guadix, Valencia and Barcelona. Travel Madrid to Barcelona.

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12-Night Cruise from **$1127**
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3 Nights 4-Star from **$189**pp
INCLUDES accom in the Village over the long weekend. **ADD** zipline adventure from $133.

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